

and shouting, "It's just a NUT!" or "It's just a fucking FOOD TRAY!" or "It's just a TOILET HANDLE for Christsake!"

We all felt sorry for George.
It was beginning to look like he just didn't have what it takes to work in such a high-tech vital-to-national-security program.

NATIONAL SECURITY

A man from the offices comes by to lean over my toolbox and tell me in low voice that the Air Force is coming through and so the supervisor wants the manufacturing orders and parts conformance charts in their proper clear-plastic folder-like envelopes, as he gathers the paperwork up from my workbench and stuffs it all into the plastic envelope so that I will have to take it out again when I want to use it later, and sets the envelope down neatly onto the top of my toolbox and walks off toward the next machinist.

It sure is good to know that the Air Force is keeping a close watch on such a really vital aspect of our job.

GO WITH THE FLOW

The Goodstone Manufacturing Standards books are in 5 volumes that are each 4 inches thick and 12 inches high and stacked at several strategic locations around the machine shop, full of standards for things like finish and squareness and taper and concentricity tolerances on the aircraft parts we manufacture, but only once in the 2 years I have worked at Goodstone Aircraft Company have I actually seen someone drag one of the 10-pound volumes off its shelf and carry it to their workbench and thumb through it looking to see if the part they were making was within Goodstone Manufacturing Standards' tolerances, even though every blueprint we use states that we are to work according to those standards.

After all of those hundreds and hundreds of aircraft
we've made,
I guess none of us wants to be the one
to discover
what we might have been doing wrong.

CRITICAL CONDITION

The machinists were concerned.
Curly
hadn't been doing too well
that from-behind pussy shot
of a woman bent over with her legs spread
that he moved along on the calendar on his toolbox,
sticking it to the dates
when he had gotten laid by his wife,
hadn't moved in a long time — it was stuck way back
on the 11th and it was now
the 20th and his trademark grin
was becoming more and more forced as he tried to swagger
about
and said, "I'm sorry"
whenever another machinist pointed out that his pussy
shot hadn't moved.

But the machinists really started to get worried
that morning of the 24th when they
passed by
his toolbox and saw
that he'd removed the pussy shot from his calendar
entirely.

A man who has lost his reason for being
is in real trouble.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

There has been an acid bath
leak over between buildings 51 and 52
and all of the machinists in 3 buildings
have been evacuated leaving behind
their open toolboxes and thermoses and lunches.
They are now milling about in front of building 54
having put in too many hours for Goodstone Aircraft Company
to get away with sending them home with less than a
full day's pay,
and with nothing to do
but stand around
with their hands behind their backs
relaxed and joking in shifting circles
of conversation like executives —